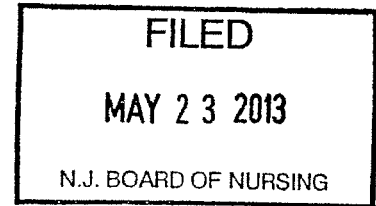


JEFFREY S. CHIESA  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY  
Division of Law 5th Floor  
124 Halsey Street  
P.O. Box 45029  
Newark, New Jersey 07101  
Attorney for the Board of Nursing



By: DAG Susan Carboni  
Tel. (973) 648-2894

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :	Administrative Action
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF :	
JOSEPH HOOPER, R.N. :	
LICENSE # NR 15336100 :	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
TO PRACTICE AS A :	OF LICENSE
REGISTERED NURSE (R.N.) IN THE :	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY :	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (" Board") upon the receipt of information indicating the following;

1. Respondent, Joseph Hooper, is the holder of License No. NR 15336100 as a registered professional nurse in the State of New Jersey.

2. Respondent entered into a private letter agreement with the Board, which he signed on or about December 10, 2011.

(Exhibit A) The agreement required respondent to enroll in the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP), undergo evaluation and monitoring, agree to follow recommendations by RAMP for further treatment, and to refrain from the use of any and all potentially addictive substances. (Exhibit A, ¶¶2, 6, and 10.) The agreement was to have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4. In the event that the Board received reliable information that respondent had acted in violation of the RAMP contract and/or the agreement, the agreement was no longer to remain confidential.

3. In a communication dated March 15, 2013, RAMP's Interim Director advised the Board that respondent was noncompliant with his RAMP contract. (Exhibit B)

4. On or about April 25, 2013, a letter issued by overnight and regular mail to respondent at her address of record, advising respondent that the Board had received credible information indicating that she was not in compliance with the private letter agreement, and advising him to forward within five days any proof that he was currently in compliance with RAMP. The overnight mailing was delivered on April 26, 2013. The regular mailing was not returned. No response has been received to date. (Exhibit C)

5. The private letter agreement signed by respondent provided for automatic suspension of respondent's nursing license upon receipt of reliable information indicating that respondent has violated any term of the private letter agreement. (Exhibit A, ¶13)

6. A certification from RAMP's Director dated May 14, 2013 indicates that respondent failed to submit to random drug screens on January 14, 2013, January 24, 2013, March 1, 2013 and March 13, 2013. Mr. Hooper also stopped participating in daily check-ins as of February 23, 2013. Mr. Hooper failed to respond to attempts by his case manager to contact him about his noncompliance. Mr. Hooper also did not confirm his work status in his March 2013 monthly report. (Exhibit D) This conduct constitutes a violation of the private letter agreement signed by respondent.

IT IS on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2013

HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey shall be and hereby is suspended for his violation of the private letter agreement, which is deemed a violation of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

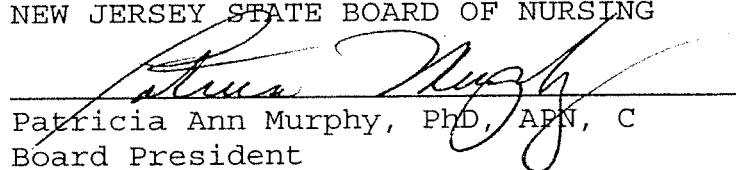
2. Respondent may, under the terms of the private letter agreement, upon notice, request a hearing on the sole issue of

whether respondent has failed to comply with the terms of the private letter agreement.

3. In the event that respondent seeks reinstatement of his New Jersey nursing license at any future time, the Board shall not entertain any application for reinstatement without respondent's demonstrating that he is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the private letter agreement and with any agreement with RAMP.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

  
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C  
Board President

# **EXHIBIT**

## **A**

---



CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

## New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs  
New Jersey Board of Nursing  
124 Halsey Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark NJ 07102  
[www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/medical/nursing.htm](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/medical/nursing.htm)



PAULA T. DOW  
Attorney General

THOMAS R. CALCAGNI  
Acting Director

December 2, 2011

### Regular Mail

Mr. Joseph Hooper #26NR15336100  
126 Grantham Drive  
Somerset, New Jersey 08873

**NOT FOR PUBLIC  
DISCLOSURE**

Re: Private letter agreement

Dear Mr. Hooper:

The New Jersey Board of Nursing and/or RAMP has reviewed information which reveals that you may have problems related to mental health and/or substance abuse that could have affected and/or might subsequently affect your nursing activities. The Board has therefore authorized me to propose to resolve this matter by private letter agreement. However, if this agreement is not returned signed within fifteen (15) days, this offer may be withdrawn. Moreover this offer of private resolution is premised on the information of which the Board and/or RAMP is currently aware, i.e., that the Board was advised by Somerset Medical Center that you were terminated from your position for failure to follow policies and procedures for documentation, medication administration and wasting of controlled substances. In the event that information emerges indicating that the dimensions of the problem are greater than indicated above, or that your conduct results in a criminal conviction, the Board reserves the right, in light of its responsibilities, to take public disciplinary action. Except as indicated above, or if the Board receives reliable information indicating that you have violated this agreement, the Board will shall maintain the confidentiality of this letter agreement.

In order to determine how to finally resolve this matter, the Board requests that you sign this document in order to indicate that you:

1. Agree to undergo a comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation to be conducted by a qualified mental health evaluator as recommended by the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP) within 30 days hereof, if required by RAMP. Agree that the evaluator shall prepare a report which shall include an evaluation of your mental health condition and substance use history (if any), whether you are able to safely and competently practice nursing, and said report shall include recommendations for further treatment and monitoring, if applicable, including the need for continued random urine screens, or limitations of practice.
2. Agree to enroll in RAMP (The Recovery and Monitoring Program) for a minimum of 90 days during which time you shall be required to undergo random observed urine screens panel or

hair screens, submit monthly self-evaluation reports, and attend regular Peer Support Meetings. Your failure to submit to or provide a urine or hair sample when requested, failure to supply reports on a timely basis, and failure to attend peer support meetings shall be deemed to be a violation of the terms of this agreement, as shall other violations of your RAMP contract.


3. Agree to arrange for the aforementioned comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation report to be forwarded to the Board and to RAMP within 30 days hereof.
4. Agree that RAMP shall notify the Board immediately if you become noncompliant with the program requirements and provide the Board with a copy of all documents relating thereto.
5. Agree to submit complete copies of the RAMP Initial Application form and RAMP Agreement form to the Board within 30 days hereof.
6. Agree to follow the recommendations (if any) by RAMP and/or the evaluator for further treatment, which may include inpatient or intensive outpatient treatment, and/or more lengthy enrollment in RAMP, and to limit your nursing practice if recommended by RAMP. This may include your placing your nursing license into inactive status.
7. Agree to be responsible for all costs of the comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation, urine screens, the enrollment participation fees associated with RAMP and/or further treatment and monitoring, if applicable.
8. Agree that until successful completion of RAMP you will notify RAMP in writing of any change of employment within 10 days of being terminated, resigning or taking a leave of absence from any place of nursing employment. Also you will notify the Board in writing of any change in name or official address of record within ten days thereof.
9. Agree to notify the Board in writing if you are arrested, indicted or convicted of any crime or offense within 10 days thereof.
10. Agree to refrain from the use of any and all potentially addictive substances except as prescribed by an authorized health care practitioner. You shall report any such use to RAMP in writing within five days of receiving such a prescription together with the name of the prescribing health care practitioner, the name of the drug, the quantity, frequency, length and reason for its use.
11. Agree that your signature on this agreement shall specifically constitute a waiver of confidentiality of documents and information forwarded by the Board to RAMP and by RAMP to the Board, and received pursuant to this agreement, so as to permit their use, and use of this private letter agreement, in any proceeding regarding your license in the event you violate any provision of this agreement.
12. Agree that you shall remain in RAMP until successful completion of or release from the program. Agree that unless you have successfully completed RAMP, and received written notification from the Board that you are relieved of the requirements of this letter agreement, you may not modify the conditions of this agreement without submitting a written petition to the Board providing a detailed explanation of the basis for your modification request, and then entering into a new, modified agreement with the Board which may not necessarily be confidential.

13. Agree that any deviation from the terms of this private letter agreement without the prior written consent of the Board shall constitute a failure to comply with the terms of this agreement. Upon receipt of any reliable information indicating that you have violated any term of this agreement, your nursing license may be automatically suspended by the Board. You may, upon notice, request a hearing to contest the entry of such an order. At any such hearing the sole issue shall be whether any of the information received regarding your violation of the agreement was materially false. In addition, the Board reserves the right to bring further disciplinary action.

Upon your forwarding this signed agreement, of which you should retain a copy, to my attention, you should immediately contact Wendy Summers, at (609)883-5335, Extension 23, leaving a message with a telephone number where you may be contacted. In the event that there is no response within 48 hours, you may contact Jamie Smith, RAMP's Interim Director, at (609)883-5335, Extension 20, and leave a message with a contact number. Be prepared to forward a copy of this letter to RAMP. You will be promptly contacted and advised as to how to proceed in order to enroll in RAMP, and to obtain the written evaluation. This agreement and any resulting evaluation shall remain confidential unless you fail to abide by its terms. This agreement shall have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4.

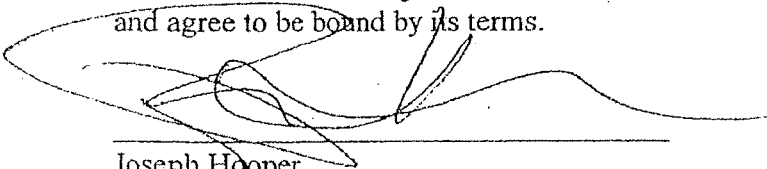
Very truly yours,

By:



Patricia A. Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President

I have read the above agreement  
and agree to be bound by its terms.



Joseph Hooper

10 Dec 11  
Date



**B**

Patricia A. Barnett, RN, JD  
Chief Executive Officer  
Jamie Smith, MSN, RN, MSN  
Interim RAMP Director

March 15, 2013  
Mr. George Hebert, RN, MA  
Executive Director  
New Jersey Board of Nursing  
124 Halsey Street 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Newark, NJ

RE: Joseph Hooper RN # 26NR15336100

Dear Mr. Hebert:

This letter is to notify you that Joseph Hooper RAMP participant # 3176 has been noncompliant with his RAMP monitoring requirements. Joseph Hooper signed his private letter agreement on June 29, 2012. . Mr. Hooper began testing on August 7, 2012. After concerns about his appropriateness in peer support groups was brought up by his peer facilitators, he was removed from peer groups and sent for evaluation. He was evaluated by Dr. Sean Evers PhD and a follow up evaluation was recommended.

Mr. Hooper has demonstrated a failure to comply with monitoring requests including the following:

1. Failure to submit to random drug screens on March 13, 2013, March 1, 2013, January 24, 2013 and January 14, 2013 (report attached)
2. Ceased participating in daily check ins as of February 23, 2013
3. Failed to respond to case manger communication attempts regarding noncompliance
4. To our knowledge he has not received further evaluation for potential PTSD or other related conditions nor has he submitted evidence that he attended anger management groups as recommended on January 18, 2013 and in a follow up call between Mr. Hooper, his attorney, RAMP case manager and myself
5. Failed to return the revised monitoring agreement received January 18, 2013 as well.
6. RAMP received information that a compliant was made by Phoenix Health Care Services that while he were working at Hackensack Medical Center and appeared impaired to multiple witnesses and refused to submit to a drug screening. Additionally RAMP had not information that he was working as a nurse and the supervisor at Phoenix Health Care Services was not aware you were in monitoring. In his March 2013 monthly report, he failed to confirm his work status.

Mr. Joseph Hooper has failed to respond to RAMP's efforts to contact him and become compliant. At this time RAMP cannot assure the BON or the public that she is safe to practice. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or need clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jamie Smith MSN, RN, CCRN  
Interim RAMP Director

Cc: Deborah Zuccarelli RN, NJ BON  
Nicole Peteet-Davis

**EXHIBIT**

**C**



CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

*State of New Jersey*  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF LAW  
PO Box 45029  
Newark, NJ 07101

JEFFREY S. CHIESA  
Attorney General

CHRISTOPHER S. PORRINO  
Director

April 25, 2013

By regular and overnight mail

Mr. Joseph Hooper  
126 Grantham Drive  
Somerset, NJ 08873

Re: Noncompliance with private letter agreement

Dear Mr. Hooper:

The New Jersey State Board of Nursing is in receipt of credible information advising that you are not in compliance with the private letter agreement that you signed on or about June 29, 2012.

The Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP) has notified the Board that you failed to submit to random drug screens on January 14, 2013; January 24, 2013; March 1, 2013; and March 13, 2013. RAMP also indicated that you ceased participating in daily check ins as of February 23, 2013, failed to respond to attempts by your case manager to contact you about your noncompliance, and have not undergone further evaluation for the possibility of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as recommended, nor have you submitted evidence of having attended anger management groups, as recommended. You also failed to return, signed, a revised monitoring agreement which was sent to you. Further, RAMP was advised that you had been working at Hackensack Medical Center, where you appeared impaired to a number of witnesses, and refused to submit to a drug screening. You had apparently been working at Hackensack Medical Center without advising RAMP, and in your March, 2013 monthly report,



April 25, 2013

Page 2

you did not confirm your employment status.

The private letter agreement that you signed provides for automatic suspension of your nursing license for noncompliance. If the information the Board has received is not accurate, you are advised to forward proofs that you are in compliance with the private letter agreement to my attention within five (5) business days. You may send it to:

D.A.G. Susan Carboni  
Division of Law  
P.O. Box 45029  
124 Halsey Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Newark, NJ 07101

You may also fax me at (973)648-3879. You should telephone to verify receipt. Your failure to demonstrate that you are in compliance with the private letter agreement may result in the suspension of your nursing license.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

JEFFREY S. CHIESA  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By: *Susan Carboni*  
Susan Carboni  
Deputy Attorney General



United States

[New User](#) | [Log-In](#) | [Contact UPS](#) | [The UPS Store](#)  [Sub](#)[My UPS](#) [Shipping](#) [Tracking](#) [Freight](#) [Locations](#) [Support](#) [UPS Solutions](#)[Log-In](#) for additional tracking details.

## Tracking Detail

[Print](#)[Help](#)[A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

1ZF0461E2210401753

Updated: 05/10/2013 3:43 P.M. Eastern Time

## Delivered

Delivered On:  
Friday, 04/26/2013 at 10:08 A.M.[Request Status Updates »](#)Left At:  
Front Door[Proof of Delivery](#)

## Shipping Information

To:  
SOMERSET, NJ, US

## Shipped By

**UPS NEXT DAY  
AIR**

## Additional Information

Type:

Package

## Shipment Progress

[What's This?](#)Subscribe to UPS E-mail: [View Examples](#)[Site Feedback](#)

## Contact UPS

[Browse Online Support](#)[E-mail UPS](#)[Live Chat](#)[Call Customer Service](#)

## Support

[Get Started](#)[Register](#)[Open a Shipping Account](#)[Change Your Delivery](#)

## Solutions for:

[Healthcare](#)[Small Business](#)[High Tech](#)[More...](#)

## Other UPS Sites:

**WE ♥ LOGISTICS**[Home](#) [About UPS](#) [Site Guide](#) [Investors](#) [Careers](#) [Pressroom](#) [UPS Global](#) [UPS Mobile](#) [UPS Blog](#)[Service Terms and Conditions](#) [Website Terms of Use](#) [Privacy Notice](#) [Your California Privacy Rights](#) [Protect Against Fraud](#)

Copyright © 1994-2013 United Parcel Service of America, Inc. All rights reserved.





**EXHIBIT**

**D**

DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

CERTIFICATION  
OF SUZANNE KINKLE

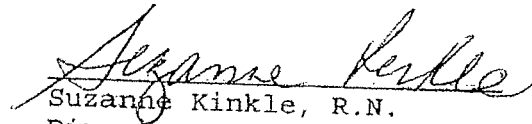
I, Suzanne Kinkle, of full age, certify:

1. I am a registered nurse in the State of New Jersey, and employed as the Director and custodian of the records of the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP), with offices at the New Jersey State Nursing Association, 1479 Pennington Road, Trenton, New Jersey 08618. I have been employed in that capacity since May 6, 2013.

2. I have consulted the records used by RAMP in the ordinary course of business and have ascertained that Joseph Hooper, R.N., failed to submit to random drug screens on January 14, 2013; January 24, 2013; March 1, 2013; and March 13, 2013. Mr. Hooper has also ceased participating in daily check-ins as of February 23, 2013. Mr. Hooper has also failed to respond to attempts by his case manager to contact him about his noncompliance. In addition, Mr. Hooper did not confirm his work status in his March 2013 monthly report.

3. Attached to this certification is a printout of Mr. Hooper's compliance report, indicating the dates of missed check-ins and screenings.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are wilfully false, I am subject to punishment.

  
Suzanne Kinkle, R.N.  
Director  
Recovery and Monitoring Program

Dated: May 14, 2013

Date	Event	Status
3/11/2013	Missed Check-In	Active
3/12/2013	Missed Check-In	Active
3/13/2013	Missed Check-In and Test	Active

## Selection

Date	Status
7/31/2012	No Show
9/6/2012	No Show
11/27/2012	No Show
1/14/2013	No Show
1/24/2013	No Show
3/1/2013	No Show
3/13/2013	No Show

## Drug Tests

Date	Panel	COC#	Result	Drug
8/7/2012	Option 3 (Option 3 - Medpro B)	8247848	Negative	
8/13/2012	Option 3 (Option 3 - Medpro B)	1456838	Negative	
9/19/2012	Option 5 (Option 5 - Medpro C)	7216809	Negative	
10/12/2012	Option 3 (Option 3 - Medpro B)	5364260	Negative	
10/23/2012	Option 3 (Option 3 - Medpro B)	8247847	Negative	
11/14/2012	Option 3 (Option 3 - Medpro B)	7452701	Negative	
11/28/2012	Option 3 (Option 3 - Medpro B)	8789708	Negative	
12/5/2012	Option 5 (Option 5 - Medpro C)	7297405	Negative	
12/26/2012	Option 5 (Option 5 - Medpro C)	2866160	Positive	FENTANYL, NORFENTANYL (FENTANYL METAB)
2/19/2013	Option 5 (Option 5 - Medpro C)	7529210	Negative	

## Reports

No Records Found